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BOOK REVIEWS

IN CHARGE OF
M. E. CAMERON

A REFERENCE HAND-BOOK FOR NURSES. By Amanda K. Beck, graduate of the Illinois Training-School for Nurses. 32mo, 150 pages. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders. Bound in flexible morocco, $1.50 net.

Miss Beck's little book will find many friends, no doubt, if only for the neat and stylish appearance it presents, but we doubt whether the increase of such books is desirable. The notes of a probationer, however valuable to herself during probation, should not command much attention once the probationary stage is past. Some of the notes, too, seem of doubtful origin. Was there ever a nurse in training called upon to make and apply the onion poultice of page 47? What dreams of a beafsteak dinner the patient would have! There is implied the notion that nurses in the West are not confined by the limits of their own profession, as they are in New York. For instance, page 41, "Miscellaneous Formulæ," begins with a certain "Semmola's Mixture" "*to eliminate the kidneys.*" Nurses have been severely censured in New York for so much as dressing an old ulcer of the leg without direction and prescription, and this is a small matter when compared with interference with so important a function as that of the kidneys.

There is room for more books than we have on nursing subjects written by nurses, but it seems a waste of good ability and of time and money to increase the reproduction of these sketchy little memory helps, which take up a multitude of subjects and lay them down like labelled parcels of which we see only the outside.

A HAND-BOOK OF NURSING. Published under the direction of the Connecticut Training-School for Nurses connected with the General Hospital Society, New Haven, Conn. London and Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company.

The revision of the New Haven Hand-Book of Nursing after twenty-seven years must be regarded as a questionable enterprise, and one that violates the Biblical injunction against mending old garments with new cloth and putting new wine into old bottles. Not that there is enough of the new wine to be very dangerous; there is hardly as much new in the

revised edition as could justify its anonymous appearance. We are not told who is answerable for the new edition, but it is a fact in the history of nursing that the original author has been dead for years. Turning over the leaves of this *omnium gatherum*, this once highly prized scrap-book of general nursing information as it now appears to us, one wonders if there is any justification for any "Hand-Book of Nursing." Where is the training-school to-day that allows or expects a pupil nurse to practise any but the direct teaching and demonstration of her superiors? The day of the hand-book was also the day of the superintendent of manifold offices—the superintendent who added to all her other duties that of teaching one hour per week, and in the course of two years covering the entire curriculum. Those superintendents were wonders for us to marvel at, and we remember them with love and reverence and give them due credit for the pioneer work that made it possible for the superintendent of to-day to be what she is; yet no one dreams so foolishly as to think that the old order could fill the place of the new. The old hand-book too has had its day, but however ready we may be to acknowledge our indebtedness to it in the past, we venture to predict a cool reception, or at best one of sentimental retrospection, for the revised New Haven Hand-Book.

BACTERIOLOGY AND SURGICAL TECHNIC FOR NURSES. By Emily A. Stoney, superintendent of the Training-School for Nurses, St. Anthony's Hospital, Rock Island, Ill., author of "Practical Points in Nursing" and "Practical Materia Medica for Nurses." Second edition. Thoroughly revised and enlarged by F. R. Griffith, M.D. (University of Pennsylvania), of New York. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders.

Miss Stoney's book, which has been known for some years past, appears in its new and enlarged edition as the stepchild of Dr. Griffith. Did Miss Stoney appoint a literary executor? or is this another instance of the superior talent of the masculine mind for seeing a chance and grasping it?